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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued by the
Presidency on 4 February 2000 on behalf of the European Union on Burundi (see
annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its
annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio MONTEIRO
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations



Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 4 February 2000 on Burundi by
the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of
the European Union

The European Union has been following closely the situation in Burundi. The resumption of the Arusha Process and the subsequent Security Council "open briefing" on Burundi mark a new phase and hopefully will give a fresh and decisive impetus to the successful accomplishment of the current peace process.

The European Union welcomes these positive signs of a revitalized Arusha peace process and expresses its full support to the new facilitator, Nelson Mandela, for putting all his eminent wisdom and political experience at the service of the important task of achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict in Burundi.

The European Union remains, however, concerned at the ongoing violence and insecurity in Burundi, as well as at the increasing flow of refugees and internally displaced people. While taking note of the declaration of 19 January made by the Government of Burundi and its pledge progressively to close regroupment camps, the European Union calls on the authorities in Bujumbura to proceed to a speedy dismantling of all those camps and makes a further appeal to all the Burundian parties to guarantee the security of those involved in humanitarian assistance.

The European Union remains concerned over cross-border insurgent activity and welcomes the agreement between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania expeditiously to implement established mechanisms of consultations regarding border issues.

The European Union continues to be convinced that lasting peace in Burundi can only be achieved through political means. In this light, the European Union reaffirms its support for the peace process, encompassing the Arusha negotiations and the internal partnership. The European Union urges all the Burundian rebel movements to join the negotiations.

The European Union calls on all parties to the conflict to cooperate closely with the facilitator Nelson Mandela and his team and to contribute constructively, in a spirit of compromise and reconciliation, to the search for a peaceful and lasting solution to the political crisis in the country. The European Union is willing to gradually resume its structural aid to Burundi in the light of the engagement of the parties to the peace negotiations and subject to improvements in human rights and the security situation.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.
